



Parra Notes

August 26, 2005

I hope you all enjoy the new and improved design of my “**Parra Notes**”. This version should be a bit easier to read.

It's been a good week. Last Friday, I was joined by **Pioneer Union Elementary School** Superintendent **Diane Cox**, Advocate **Dianna Rankin**, **Hanford** Chief of Police **Carlos Mestas**, **Kings County** Supervisor **Tony Olivera**, **Pioneer Middle School** Principal **Rich Callahan**, ASB President **Cody Shubert**, parents, students and cheerleaders for a **press conference** to kick off the **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25** campaign. As I mentioned last week, **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25** is a safety campaign emphasizing the need for drivers to become actively engaged in observing the speed limit to keep our children safe around schools and throughout our neighborhoods. As you can imagine, I am very excited about taking this campaign to other schools in my district. Following the press conference we walked the surrounding neighborhood and posted **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25** yard signs on people's lawns. Don't worry, we did ask the occupants of each home if it was okay to post a sign on their lawn. Later that day, I drove to **Corcoran** where I presented an **Assembly Resolution** to **Pizza Factory** owner **Troy Van Velson**. Troy was honored at “**A Salute to Small Business**” reception in **Sacramento** earlier this year.

Tuesday was a very interesting day for me. **KBAK Channel 29** (CBS) reporter **Kurt Rivera** was in the Capitol filming my every move. He is producing a show that will air on **Thursday**, September 1st at **7:00 p.m.** The show seeks to give the public an insider's look on an average day of Central Valley legislators. I must admit, the experience was a bit weird, but I had a lot of fun.

You might recall from last week's “**Parra Notes**” that I introduced **Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 86** regarding ‘**ICE**’ (In Case of Emergencies). Well on Tuesday, I held a press conference to discuss the resolution and, most importantly, to begin educating the public on the importance of using ‘**ICE**’. I was pleased to have been joined in support by **Derek Robinson** from the **Kern County Firefighters** and **Joe Pilkington**

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from the **Kern County Law Enforcement Association**. Both were more than gracious in making the long trip to **Sacramento** to be present and speak.

After the press conference, I met with several other legislators and representatives of the **California Air Resources Board** (ARB) to discuss impending regulations on emissions from forklifts. It was a very informative meeting, so I will tell you a bit more about it below.

I must say that my Wednesday evening was a blast as I got to play in the **Legislative All-Star** charity softball game which pitted the **Democrats** against the **Republicans**. Unfortunately, my team (Democrats) lost again, but not before some exciting action. Money raised from the game went to the River Cats Independence Field, a baseball diamond for disabled children and adults at the Pannell-Meadowview Community Center in South **Sacramento**.

LEGISLATION

Below you will find the list of my bills that were approved by various committees this week. I am especially excited to report that 6 of my bills are headed to the Senate floor for vote. AB 520 is headed to the Governor's desk for his signature.

ACR 86 'ICE' In Case of Emergencies will urge all Californians to use the acronym **'ICE'** (In Case of Emergency) when selecting individuals from their cell phone directories to be contacted in case of emergencies.

Status: Passed by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Headed to the Assembly floor for vote.

ACR 88 California Firefighters Memorial Day will designate October 15, 2005, as California Firefighters Memorial Day and urge all Californians to remember firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty and express appreciation to those who continue to protect the state against fires.

Status: Presently in the Assembly Rules Committee.

AB 437 Megan's Law Conviction-Date on Web will require that an individual's conviction and prison release date be available on the Megan's law database.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Headed to the Senate floor for vote.

AB 439 Megan's Law Conviction will clarify existing law regarding

registration responsibilities. It makes it clear that an individual must continue to register even if their conviction is expunged. The bill would also require certain registered sex offenders to notify law enforcement of a change in address either in person, by registered, or certified mail.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Headed to the Senate floor for vote.

AB 460 Vet Quarantine will strengthen the ability for the State Veterinarian to implement quarantines to stop any outbreak from spreading rapidly. The bill will act as a preventative measure by creating standards for sanitation.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Headed to the Senate floor for vote.

AB 520 Ag Commissioner will allow County Agriculture Commissioners to impose fines to any person for misuse of the “California Grown” seal. No monetary penalties currently exist.

Status: Passed by the Senate. Headed to the Governor’s desk for signature.

AB 649 Tomato Commission will provide that the commission shall establish an assessment for tomatoes produced inside and outside of the state and establishes a procedure to ensure the safety of fresh tomatoes.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Headed to the Senate floor for vote.

AB 706 CSU Whistleblower Protections will allow the Cal State University system to shield an employee’s identity and confidentiality when filing a complaint to avoid retaliation.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Headed to the Senate floor for vote.

AB 1110 Home-to-School Transportation Block Grant will ensure that the most under- funded educational state program, home-to-school transportation, be given desperately needed funding. The bill will ensure that school transportation also be given a yearly cost of living increase. This would benefit rural school districts who have disproportionately higher transportation costs because they serve fewer students per square mile and as a result, must transport greater numbers of pupils over longer distances.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Headed to the

Senate floor for vote.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB)

As I mentioned earlier, this week I attended a meeting with representatives from CARB to discuss impending regulations on emissions from forklifts. The pending regulations would require all forklifts to meet certain emission standards, mandating forklifts to be retrofitted if they do not meet the standards. The agricultural community has worked with the CARB to work out the details, both sides operating under the assumption that funding would be available to offset the cost of retrofitting. Within the last couple of months, it has come to light that no funding sources are available. I am currently working with other Valley legislators, agriculture interests, and the CARB to attempt to resolve this issue – preferably by either identifying funding or delaying the regulations.

‘ICE’ IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

As I mentioned earlier, this week I held a press conference in the Capitol to discuss **Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 86**. If passed, this resolution will urge all Californians to use the acronym **‘ICE’** (In Case of Emergency) when selecting individuals from their cell phone directories to be contacted in case of emergencies

I encourage all of you to start using ICE now. It only takes a minute. All you have to do is enter the acronym ICE with a name and phone number into your cell phone’s address book of the individuals you would like to be contacted in case of an emergency. This gives emergency personnel another tool in assisting injured individuals.

GUN SAFETY SEMINAR

On **October 22**, nd I will be hosting a **Gun Safety Seminar** at **Burris Park** in **Kingsburg**. I encourage all of you to attend as we will be discussing important safety tips and new gun laws we should all be familiar with. Trigger locks will be given out for free. For more information please call Frank Stiger at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov .

SENIOR FIELD REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

With great joy and sadness I inform you that my Senior Field Representative Nathalia Carillo is leaving my office to pursue a career in real estate in her hometown of Salinas, California. Nathalia has worked for me since before I took office and in many ways has become a part of my family. We are all going to miss her dearly.

With Nathalia’s departure comes an opening for a Senior Field

Representative position in my Bakersfield Office. The position requires an individual who can act as official representative and liaison between the community and my office. Two to three years of management experience is recommended. Those interested can send their resume to my Chief of Staff Cynthia León by fax at 916-319-2130 or by email cynthia.leon@asm.ca.gov .

CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

The first official meeting of the “California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley” will be held **Friday, September 16th** at the University of the Pacific in **Stockton** from **1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to the public so I encourage all of you to attend.

GRANTS

My office is now distributing grant packages. Included in each package is information regarding, state, federal and private grants. To pick one up or have one mailed to you please contact Juan Cerda at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford** and **Bakersfield** district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. For more details, please contact Matt Rogers at the Hanford office at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov. For Bakersfield office internships please contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov

Email: Assemblymember.Para@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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